

School Board Gets Good Mark On Budget

By Judith Epstein

The Advisory Board gave the School Committee good marks on the new school budget of \$3.5 million.

The Board withheld in depth comment on the budget because it had not been fully discussed. Advisors indicated, however, that the percentage increase of the budget was close to those of other town departments.

Patrick Hurley, chairman of the Advisory Board, said his chief concern was the impact of the Governor's spending cap message, if it is passed by the legislature, and if it is passed in time for Town Meeting.

"If the Governor's message says that we can't spend more than last year, how can the School Committee share in the cap?" Hurley asked.

Supt. John Maloney said that

in the event of a state imposed zero increase, the School Committee would be faced with the same problem it encountered with the first draft of the requested no-increase budget proposed last December.

Maloney noted that the budget had undergone changes since that time, particularly in the area of maintenance, and that if level budgeting were enforced, "trade-offs" would have to be made within the budget. The 1979-1980 budget is now \$83,128 over last year's budget, which represents a 2.4 per cent increase.

School Committee Chairman Doris Golden said, "In that first draft of the budget maintenance was omitted and that's what we've put back." Golden commented that it would be difficult, if the Governor's legislation passed between now and

Town Meeting on April 7, to realize "at the 11th hour" that a zero increase budget was needed.

School Business Manager John Raftery said that the Governor's bill was only one of 36 proposed to cut spending, and although it is the one that has received most publicity, it would probably take at least six months before it is voted on by the legislature. Hurley suggested that areas of the school budget may be exempt from the Governor's plan because of the department's autonomy.

The two boards left the topic with a feeling of confusion and uncertainty as to what would happen if the spending cap plan were law. Raftery commented later, "No one knows what will happen, we are at the mercy of the legislature."

One area of the budget that was scrutinized by the Advisory Board was Special Education. Board member Jean Cotton questioned the per-pupil costs that have risen from \$900 to \$1120 when enrollment was down to 90 students from 110 last year. She queried how this portion of the budget would affect the per-pupil costs overall.

Maloney explained that deciding enrollment had been responded to in the area of Special Education by the decrease of an aide. Figures are misleading, he said, when staff

costs with negotiated salary increases are constantly going up and down while some teachers leave, reach maximum pay and come in at the first step. Also the necessity to retain a teacher even though enrollment has dropped will reflect in a higher per-pupil cost, he said.

The 1976-1977 overall per-pupil cost in Cohasset was \$1814; last year's figure has not been published yet by the Dept. of Education. Maloney believes that the quoted per-pupil cost is below the median for a high socio-economic community but that it is higher than the state figure.

At the conclusion of the board's meeting, Advisory Board member Osborn Ingram

commended the School Committee for having "thoughtfully put together" the budget.

"We haven't taken advantage of our autonomy," Golden responded. "For six people who don't agree on the time of day, we have reached a happy medium," she said.

**BUCKLES
&
BOARDS**

SALE

20-50%

2148 Ocean St.

Marshfield

Open Nights 834-7097

Heap—Mckenna

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Heap Jr. of Duxbury have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Lorraine Ayn Heap, to William Nicholas McKenna III. He is the son of Mrs. William N. McKenna of Cohasset and the late Mr. McKenna.

Miss Heap graduated from Milton schools and the Massachusetts College of Art. She is a lecturer and decorator for

the Hancock Paint, Wallpaper and Rug Centers, and also does free-lance commercial interior design.

Mr. McKenna graduated from Milton Academy and Bucknell University. He is senior account executive for Servomation Corp. in Stoneham.

A May 12 wedding is planned.

How to do the impossible 7 different ways.



Saving is next to impossible if you've got the wrong kind of savings plan. At South Shore Bank, we offer you 7 different plans. And when you have the one that's right for you, anything's possible.

South Shore Bank



Member F.D.I.C.

(617) 472-1000

Beginnings

25 Depot St., Duxbury Cross Roads, Duxbury

Lingerie — Loungewear — Sleepwear
Danskin Leotards & Tights

(We still have winter items 40-75% off)

Hours: Mon.-Sat.

Tel: 934-5397

MAYBE THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO LIVE

- Luxury 1 & 2 Bedroom Garden Apartments
- Day Care Center Available
- Swimming Pool, Tennis Courts, Playgrounds
- Senior Citizen Discount Available
- Rental from \$250

FOX RUN — Route 139 — Marshfield
Resident Manager 837-1103 or 837-6319

SHERMAN'S
Ethan Allen Winter Sale

Only 3 days to go!

Last Chance to Save.

Sale ends March 3 .

COME ON OVER TO OUR HOUSE AND BROWSE THROUGH 3 FLOORS OF ROOM SETTINGS

SHERMAN'S

310 COURT STREET

NO. PLYMOUTH

746-1440

Open Mon and Fri. 9-9 p.m. Other Days til 5:30 p.m.

